WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A system for transmitting and receiving data comprising:

a direct-conversion receiver receiving a signal
5   modulated on a carrier frequency signal, the direct-conversion receiver further comprising one or more subharmonic local oscillator mixers;

a local oscillator coupled to the direct conversion receiver, the local oscillator generating a signal having a
10 frequency equal to a subharmonic of the carrier frequency signal; and

a transmitter coupled to the local oscillator.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the direct
15 conversion receiver further comprises:

a phase shifter coupled to a first subharmonic local oscillator mixer, where the output of the first subharmonic local oscillator mixer is used to generate a quadrature signal of a phase shift keyed signal; and
20   a second subharmonic local oscillator mixer, where the output of the second subharmonic local oscillator mixer is used to generate an in-phase signal of a phase shift keyed signal.

25   3.   The system of claim 2 wherein the phase shifter is further coupled to the local oscillator.

4.   The system of claim 2 further comprising a low-noise amplifier coupled to the phase shifter, wherein the signal modulated on the carrier frequency signal is received by the low-noise amplifier and is transmitted to the phase

5   shifter after being amplified.

5.   The system of claim 1 further comprising a frequency multiplier coupled between the local oscillator and the transmitter, wherein the frequency multiplier

10   increases the frequency of the oscillator.

6.   The system of claim 5 wherein the frequency multiplier increases the frequency of the oscillator up to the frequency of the carrier signal.

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7.   The system of claim 1 wherein the transmitter comprises:

a frequency multiplier coupled to the local oscillator; and

20   an in-phase/quadrature modulator coupled to the frequency multiplier, receiving an in-phase modulation input signal and a quadrature modulation input signal, and outputting a quadrature phase shift keyed signal modulated at the multiplied local oscillator frequency.

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8. The system of claim 1 wherein the transmitter comprises:

an in-phase/quadrature modulator coupled to the local oscillator, receiving an in-phase modulation input signal and a quadrature modulation input signal, and outputting a quadrature phase shift keyed signal modulated at the local oscillator frequency; and

a frequency multiplier coupled to the in-phase/quadrature modulator and multiplying the frequency of the quadrature phase shift keyed signal.

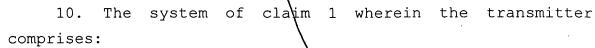9. The system of claim 1 wherein the transmitter comprises:

a frequency modulator coupled to the local oscillator, wherein the local oscillator is modulated by the frequency modulator;

a phase locked loop coupled to the frequency modulator and the local oscillator; and

a switch coupled between the local oscillator and the phase locked loop, wherein the switch can couple the phase locked loop to the local oscillator during a transmit cycle and can decouple the phase locked loop from the local oscillator during a receive cycle.

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10. The system of claim 1 wherein the transmitter comprises:

a frequency modulator coupled to the local oscillator, where the local oscillator is modulated by the frequency modulator;

a voltage-controlled reference oscillator coupled to the frequency modulator, where the voltage-controlled reference oscillator is modulated by the frequency modulator; and

a phase locked loop coupled to the local oscillator in a feedback loop, the phase locked loop further coupled to the voltage controlled oscillator.

11. A method for receiving and transmitting data comprising:

receiving a carrier signal modulated with a data signal;

5   mixing the carrier signal with a subharmonic local oscillator signal to extract a baseband signal; and

modulating an outgoing data signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal.

10   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein mixing the carrier signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal to extract the baseband signal further comprises:

mixing the carrier signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal to extract an in-phase signal;

15   phase-shifting the subharmonic local oscillator signal; and

mixing the carrier signal with the phase-shifted subharmonic local oscillator signal to extract a quadrature phase signal.

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13.   The method of claim 11 wherein mixing the carrier signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal to extract the baseband signal further comprises:

mixing the carrier signal with the subharmonic local
25 oscillator signal to extract an in-phase signal;

phase-shifting the carrier signal; and

mixing the phase-shifted carrier signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal to extract a quadrature phase signal.

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14. The method of claim 11 wherein modulating the outgoing data signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal comprises:

multiplying the subharmonic local oscillator signal; and

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modulating an outgoing in-phase data signal and an outgoing quadrature phase data signal with the multiplied subharmonic local oscillator signal.

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15. The method of claim 11 wherein modulating the outgoing data signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal comprises:

modulating an outgoing in-phase data signal and an outgoing quadrature phase data signal with the subharmonic

15 local oscillator signal to generate a modulated outgoing data signal; and

multiplying the modulated outgoing data signal to generate the outgoing data signal.

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16. The method of claim 11 wherein modulating the outgoing data signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal comprises:
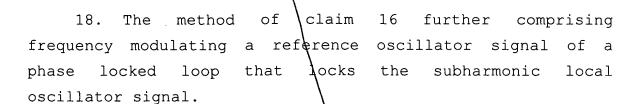
frequency modulating the subharmonic local oscillator signal during a transmit cycle; and

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interrupting frequency modulation of the subharmonic local oscillator signal during a receive cycle.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising opening a phase locked loop during the transmit cycle to lock the

30 subharmonic local oscillator signal.

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18. The method of claim 16 further comprising frequency modulating a reference oscillator signal of a phase locked loop that locks the subharmonic local oscillator signal.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein modulating the outgoing data signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal comprises:

modulating an outgoing in-phase data signal and an outgoing quadrature phase data signal with the subharmonic local oscillator signal at a subharmonic modulation index to generate a modulated outgoing data signal; and

multiplying the modulated outgoing data signal by an inverse subharmonic to generate the outgoing data signal.

20. A system for transmitting and receiving data comprising:

a low noise amplifier receiving a modulated incoming carrier signal having a carrier signal frequency;

5   a local oscillator generating a signal having a subharmonic frequency of the carrier signal;

a first mixer coupled to the low noise amplifier and the local oscillator, the first mixer receiving the modulated incoming carrier signal and generating an in-phase

10   incoming data signal;

a second mixer coupled to the low noise amplifier and the local oscillator, the second mixer receiving the modulated incoming carrier signal and generating a quadrature phase incoming data signal;

15   a modulator coupled to the local oscillator, the modulator receiving an outgoing data signal and modulating the outgoing data signal onto the local oscillator signal to generate an outgoing modulated carrier signal; and

a transmit amplifier coupled to the modulator, the

20   transmit amplifier amplifying the outgoing modulated carrier signal to a transmission power level.

21. The system of claim 20 further comprising a general purpose computing platform coupled to the first

25   mixer, the second mixer, and the modulator, the general purpose computing platform decoding an incoming data signal from the in-phase incoming data signal and the quadrature phase incoming data signal, and generating the outgoing data signal.

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22.   The   system   of   claim   20   further   comprising   a
telephone   handset   coupled   to   the   first   mixer,   the   second
mixer,   and   the   modulator,   the   telephone   handset   decoding   an
incoming   data   signal   from   the   in-phase   incoming   data   signal
5   and   the   quadrature   phase   incoming   data   signal,   and
generating   the   outgoing   data   signal.

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